

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to FIG. 1. This sheet replaces the original sheet of drawings.

Attachment: Replacement sheet

Remarks

By this amendment, the drawings and claims 1, 6, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17, 19, 35, 42-44, 46, 47, 49 and 51 are amended. Claims 4, 5 and 20-31 remain cancelled. This amendment corrects formal matters with regard to claim language. No amendments to substantive matters have been made.

Regarding the Examiner's objection to the drawings, the placement of numeral 30 in FIG. 1 has been amended to more clearly indicate the location of the motor in a manner that is consistent with FIGS. 3 and 4. The amended drawing has been included on the attached replacement sheet. Thus, the objection to the drawings should be obviated.

Applicants acknowledge with gratitude that claims 1-3, 6-19, and 32-51 are indicated in the Office action as allowable if rewritten to overcome the Examiner's objections. Applicants have amended the claims to correct for informalities substantially in accord with the Examiner's suggestions at pages 3-5. Each of the amendments made by Applicants is specified and discussed as follows such that the Examiner may readily ascertain that no amendments to substantive matters have been made.

Claim 1 has been amended by inserting "respectively" after "other." Claim 6 has been amended by inserting "fitting" after "coupling." Claim 9 has been amended by inserting "in" after "ring fitting." Claim 11 has been amended by inserting "fitting" after the first instance of "coupling." Claim 12 has been amended to correct a typographical error by inserting "are" between "contacts" and "arranged."

In the Office action at page 3, the Examiner suggests amending claims 12 and 13 to relate the plurality of transfer lines and electrical contacts to the projecting element. Applicant asserts that no amendment of this nature is necessary. Claim 1 recites a "the second coupling fitting

having a projecting element thereon projecting toward said first coupling fitting.” Claim 12 recites “a plurality of media transfer lines and/or electrical contacts...projecting axially outwardly from remainder portions of said second coupling fitting.” In this manner, “the plurality of media transfer lines and/or electrical contacts” are related to the “remainder portions of said second coupling fitting” and therefore do not need to be related to the “projecting element.” Therefore, claims 12 and 13 should not be amended to include a relationship to the projecting element.

Claim 14 has been amended by replacing “unlock” with “lock” and “lock” with “unlock” at line 11, and by replacing “unlock” with “lock” at line 17. Claim 16 has been amended by inserting “fitting” after “coupling.” Claim 17 has been amended by replacing “ring member” with “ring fitting.”

In the Office action at page 4, the Examiner suggests amending claim 19 to relate the plurality of transfer lines and electrical contacts to the projecting element. Applicant asserts that no amendment of this nature is necessary. Claim 14 recites a “projecting element extending axially outwardly from remainder portions of said second coupling fitting.” Claim 19 has been amended to correct an error in antecedent basis on “remainder portions.” Amended claim 19 recites “a plurality of media transfer lines and/or electrical contacts...projecting axially outwardly from said remainder portions of said second coupling fitting.” In this manner, “the plurality of media transfer lines and/or electrical contacts” are related to the “remainder portions of said second coupling fitting” and the “projecting element” is also related to the “remainder portions.” It is not the intention of Applicant to claim a specific relationship between the projecting element and the plurality of transfer lines and electrical contacts, but instead to relate

the plurality of transfer lines and electrical contacts to the “remainder portions.” Therefore, claim 19 should not be amended to include a relationship to the projecting element.

Claim 35 has been amended by adding “respectively” after “other.” Claim 42 has been amended by inserting “fitting” after “coupling.” Incorrect antecedent basis in Claim 43 has been amended to remove the repeated limitation of “a bearing member.” Specifically, claim 43 has been amended to recite “the bearing member.” Claim 44 has been amended to correct for a typographical error by inserting “in” between “ring fitting” and “its.” Claim 46 has been amended by inserting “fitting” after the first instance of “coupling” and by replacing “of” with “along.”

In the Office action at page 5, the Examiner suggests amending claims 47 and 48 to relate the plurality of transfer lines and electrical contacts to the projecting element. Applicant asserts that no amendment of this nature is necessary. Claim 35 recites a “said second coupling fitting comprises a projecting element thereon projecting toward said first coupling fitting.” Claim 47 recites “a plurality of media transfer lines and/or electrical contacts...projecting axially outwardly from remainder portions of said second coupling fitting.” In this manner, “the plurality of media transfer lines and/or electrical contacts” are related to the “remainder portions of said second coupling fitting” and therefore specifying a relationship with the “projecting element” is not necessary. Therefore, claims 47 and 48 should not be amended to include a relationship to the projecting element.

Claim 49 is amended to correct a typographical error.

Claim 51 has been amended to recite “wherein said projecting element comprises a mating surface and an end portion of a media transfer line or an end portion of an electrical contact.”

With regards to claims 1, 14, and 35, the Examiner has stated that the appliances are considered to be part of the claimed invention. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner. The invention as claimed by the applicant is a plug connection, which is for fast-fit coupling of two appliances. Applicants do not intend to claim the appliances as part of the invention; rather, the appliances are part of the environment. For emphasis, Applicants have amended claims 1, 14, and 35 to recite "a first coupling fitting capable of fitting on a first appliance" and "a second coupling fitting capable of fitting on a second appliance" to make clear that the appliances are not elements of the claims. These amendments do not change the scope of the claims.

Therefore, claims 1-3, 6-19, and 32-51 are in condition for immediate allowance.

Conclusion

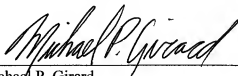
Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all the claims of the application are directed to allowable subject matter and that the application is in condition for immediate allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary to place this application in better condition for allowance, he is requested to contact Applicants' representative by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

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